

LOW-POWER HAND-HELD TRANSACTION DEVICE

RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation-in-part application of U.S.
 application Serial No. 09/064,395, filed April 22, 1998, ^{now US 6,230,970} allowed, which is a
 continuation-in-part application of U.S. application Serial No. 8/657,892 filed
 June 7, 1996, issued November 7, 2000, Pat. No. 6,144,848, which is a
 continuation-in-part of U.S. applications Serial Nos. 08/482,261, ^{now US 6,390,874} 08/485,083 ^{now abandoned} and
 08/480,614, ^{now US 6,390,874} all filed June 7, 1995.

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TECHNICAL FIELD

This invention relates to hand-held telecommunications devices and,
 in particular, to an electronic hand-held device for inputting and sending requests
 and for receiving and outputting responses to the requests.

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The acquisition of goods and services by placing orders with
 retailers and distributors is a vital component of modern commerce. Several
 different technologies for placing and receiving commercial orders currently
 account for the bulk of commercial order entry. Probably the most familiar and
 natural method of order entry is that of personal travel to a retail supplier for a
 face-to-face transaction paid for either in cash, by check, by credit card, or by an
 electronic transfer of funds. While such face-to-face transactions allow a purchaser
 to thoroughly inspect the goods and services that are being purchased, and while
 such transactions are relatively secure for both the purchaser and the retailer,
 especially when paid for in cash, face-to-face transactions are extremely inefficient
 in time and in communications costs. A purchaser generally travels to the retailer's
 place of business by car or by public transportation at a relatively high cost in time
 and energy, often incurring significant risks in personal safety. While a cash
 transaction is relatively secure, the process of bringing the cash to the retailer's
 place of business and of transporting purchased goods back to their place of use or

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